1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33)1936 SR9 Carib SR9

411 A few of the men possess dilapidated shotguns which they have
177 obtained from traders or gold diggers. These formidable weapons are known locally as "gas pipes" and are characteristically patched together with bits of string and wire. They are potentially as dangerous to the hunter as to the quarry, because their rustiness and generally feeble condition result in comparatively numerous explosions of the barrel with very serious results. Each hunter has one or two brass shells which are constantly reloaded with powder and shot. The high value of these accessories prohibits their waste and a man seldom shoots until he is sure of hitting the game.

231 A man usually goes hunting with his dog, which is invariably
224 an unidentifiable mongrel trained to follow a scent without barking. To improve the sense of smell the dog is forced to submit to certain practices intended to stimulate its olfactory centers. Juice of the red pepper is poured down the animal's nostrils. This "makes the cold" which obstructs the olfactory areas "come out." Cleansing of the dog's nose may also be accomplished with a small twig. The animal is usually deprived of food for a full day before being taken on a hunting expedition so that it will have a personal interest in the search for game. Although the dogs lying around an Indian house always have a more or less dejected and emaciated appearance, a certain amount of care is taken by the Indians to keep them in good hunting condition. Mosquito worms are dug out of their skin as soon as discovered and chiggers removed from their feet. One often sees a man sitting outside the house examining the feet and skin of his dog.

224 The general hunting technique is to follow the dog to the vicinity of the game, whereupon the dog is tied to a tree with a piece of bush rope or, if well trained, made to lie down. The hunter then stalks noiselessly up to the quarry, so close as to permit an almost certain shot. Should the animal discover the approach of the hunter and take flight, the latter knows a call which he can use to attract the curiosity or favorable attention of the species in question. These calls are either whistling sounds made with the lips or grunting and humming sounds produced in the throat of the hunter. In many cases they have no apparent resemblance to the call of the animal itself, but on frequent occasions I have seen an animal about to take flight arrested with apparent curi-

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354 A sort of lamp or taper is sometimes made of beeswax and cotton. (Lamp, kororeta; beeswax, wawapone.) Yarn is taken from a discarded cotton hammock and made into a coil, which is encased in melted beeswax. The yarn serves as a wick.

417 352 [251] An adjunct of the house furniture is the drying rack (Carib, aripapone; creole, babracote). On the drying rack, meat is smoked over the fire. Drying racks are also erected outside the house for the purpose of airing and sun-drying cassava bread, split squashes, peppers, and other food. Only two of the patterns mentioned by Roth occur in the Barama country.[1] The three-stick type (Plate 18, *b*) is made with three sticks stuck into the ground like a tripod, with their tops tied together; about halfway from the ground they support a horizontal frame or rack. The four-upright type is a rectangular horizontal frame or grill supported on four upright forked sticks (Plate 13, *a*). The drying racks may vary in height and size and, as stated, may be situated inside or outside the house. Their several parts are tied together with bush-rope.

343 As illustrated in the description and plan of the village of Sawari (Figs. 9–12), various subsidiary buildings and out-houses may be associated with the family dwelling. These serve the purposes of kitchen, storehouses, or drink houses, as the case may be. They are always four-pillar types of less elaborate construction [341] than the dwelling itself, although the design may vary from one of the temporary benab types to the simpler forms of house design, usually without wall plates. Sometimes such a subsidiary house is a former dwelling converted into an outhouse when a newer and more elaborate dwelling is constructed. A structure to which every family aspires is a drink house (kanu'eti). Such a building [445] shelters the kanu, or cassiri barrel, a large trough hollowed out of a single log, in which the drink is allowed to "set," and from which it is served at sprees. Families unfortunate enough not to possess a kanu use large pottery jars for holding the drink. In this case the jars are kept in the dwelling house, no special structure being necessary.

231 136 Numerous wild animals are regularly kept about the house as pets. Among the most important of these is the warakabra, a fowl with the iridescent plumage of a peacock and the abbreviated rump of a guinea hen; these birds set up a warning scream upon

[1] Roth, 1924, *An Introductory Study of the Arts, Crafts, and Customs*, pp. 276–277.

1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33) 1936 SR9 Carib SR9

the approach of reptiles. Parrots (kurewako) are frequent tenants of the houses; one of these birds at Sawari could speak several Carib phrases and realistically imitated the whining of a dog and the moans of a woman in sexual embrace, much to the amusement of the men. Corn birds (awashiwini), resembling in size and plumage the common American black bird, are taught to perch upon their owners' hands and necks, and are frequently to be found fluttering about the floors of the houses: at Sawari, one woman regularly on rainless days placed just outside her house a shallow dish full of water where the corn bird would come to bathe, fluttering and preening itself, and not at all abashed by the presence of people. Mention has already been made of the treatment accorded to hunting dogs. Care is also taken to provide for the comfort of the bitches when littering; one afternoon in Miller's house at Sawari, the whole family assisted for several hours at the accouchement of a bitch; a walisha lined with leaves was placed on a shallow depression in the floor; the children looked on and assisted the dog to be comfortable during the process of parturition. The Spanish cadouri is a small black and white bird (pipishi) about the size of a sparrow, greatly prized for its friendly ways. These birds are regularly fed on crumbs of cassava bread. Chickens (korotoko) are present at most of the settlements; they all appear to be a mongrel black and white fighting breed, and have probably been introduced from Venezuela in fairly recent times; neither the eggs nor the flesh of these fowls is eaten; nor do the Indians show any interest in cock-fighting; the chickens are kept simply as luxury pets, and much time is spent in admiring and boasting of the form, color, and feathering of the birds. Young bush hogs (abuya) are occasionally kept as pets and eaten when they attain maturity; in several cases I found them tied to the house posts with bush-rope, "because they bite people." Toucans (kwiaking) are favorite pets. The kibihi is a small furry animal, somewhat resembling a racoon, often found as a pet around Carib houses. Pet monkeys of several small species frequently inhabit the trees about the house, coming down to be fed by the human beings.

Brooms of brush are used for sweeping out the floors of the houses, although, regrettably, this function is performed too infrequently to suit the tastes of a European. Garbage and refuse are carried into the bush near the settlement, where they are

22 walking through the forest is always on the lookout for casual
262 protein. The smallest bird egg, an embryonic bird, or what have you, are saved and consumed.

224 The more intensive food quest for the larger animals is aided by
411 the introduction of rifles. A few dilapidated shotguns were in use
*177 by Upper Barama River Caribs in 1932-33 (Gillin 1936:8). Currently, only a limited number of men own rifles and ammunition is not always available. As a consequence, the local technology of hunting, including bow and arrows and traps as described by Gillin (1936:3-9), is maintained.

226 The fish poisons described by Gillin are also in use (1936:11).
137 Rather than the haiari root, the kunami leaves, picked from plants in the fields, are more frequently used around the air strip, where the harvesting of fish has also changed. After repeated poisoning of the nearby streams, only a handful of small fish, three inches and under, are collected in this manner.

• 231 With regard to domesticated fauna, there exists the same lack of a specific boundary which characterizes the floral resources.
(262) Chickens are clearly domesticated. Currently, they and their eggs are eaten. This is a change from an ornamental use reported by Gillin (1936:45). At one time, a few pigs were raised in the area around the air strip. Scrawny dogs who must scavenge for themselves are kept for hunting. Also, a variety of birds and animals, including the kibihi, armadillo, labba, and bush hog, are captured when
[262] infants and kept as pets until they are mature. Then they are eaten. Finally, a honey bee nest may be moved to a location convenient to future use.